



UNDERLYING QUESTIONS

How can we close the gaps, address risks and adapt to them?

How can we integrate actions into asset management plans?

How can we increase the long-term resilience of water infrastructure?

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Proper management of municipal infrastructure requires a methodical approach to planning and decision-making. This approach is all the more important in the context of climate change. In addition to short- and medium-term solutions that can be implemented in response to an event, how can a municipality improve its long-term resilience by integrating measures into its asset management plan? High-level consideration of the approach is therefore needed to determine, among other things, how to characterize the risks that threaten a municipality and how to ensure that emergency and response plans are kept up to date.



POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS

The risks to be considered can be identified in different ways:

A

Policy, strategic plan and action plan

These documents play an important role in asset management. Policies make it possible to monitor the application of certain measures, while informing the residents and stakeholders of the reasons for their application. The strategic plan enables planned management that includes the development and implementation of action plans and programs for asset creation, operation, maintenance, rehabilitation or replacement.

B

Project funding: identify necessary projects and advocate for funding

In addition to policies, it is important to identify a funding plan for projects covered by the strategic asset management plan.

C

Monitoring and continuous improvement

In the context of climate change, it is appropriate to adopt living plans both to reflect the changing climate itself, but also to promote the continuous improvement of practices within a municipality.



REFERENCES



FCM | Guide for Integrating Climate Change Considerations into Municipal Asset Management (2020)

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A guide developed by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities addressing actions to improve climate change resilience within a municipality's water asset management plan. Measures are presented, among others, to:

- Integrate climate change considerations into decision-making;
- Identify strategies to address gaps and risks due to climate change;
- Monitor progress and explore opportunities for continuous improvement.



FCM | Guide for Municipal Climate Change Staff (2021)

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A guide designed to support professionals in municipalities working to combat climate change in the broadest sense of the term. It addresses the role of municipalities, the hierarchical structures that need to be put in place to combat climate change, and the profitability of the projects to be implemented.



MAMH | Green Municipal Fund™

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GMF is a program offered by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities that provides Quebec municipalities with funding and knowledge-sharing services to support sustainable community development. GMF-funded initiatives focus on cleaning up the air, water and soil, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

This program offers:

- Grants for the development of plans;
- Grants for feasibility studies, design studies and field tests;
- Loans at below-market interest rates, usually combined with grants, to implement capital projects.



FCM | Integrating Climate Considerations: Governance and Operations (2022)

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An article that discusses the benefits of raising awareness of the potential impacts of climate change on municipalities and their assets among elected officials, staff and the community. FCM also provides a number of examples of municipalities that have adopted strategic climate change action plans, including Edmonton, which is showcased as an example to follow.

The article also presents a series of questions that municipalities may have when preparing their strategic plan, particularly with respect to:

- Data sources and design standards adapted to climate change;
- Impact on service levels;
- Funding sources (government subsidies).



FCM | Operations and Maintenance for Climate Resilience (2022)

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A handbook for municipalities that have undertaken a vulnerability assessment exercise to reflect on the next steps in resilience, including managing priorities in a context of reduced resources and staff.

